

THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

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Serial No. 26

MISCELLANEOUS RUMBLINGS, RAMBLINGS AND REPORTS FROM THE EDITOR.

Fifty two of you were kind enough to send your contribution to CNL in response to our request last March. This is approximately one third of the total number of individuals and institutions on our mailing list. We have eliminated our long standing deficit and can cover our costs for the next several issues; however, there is no room for improvement in quality of CNL unless others are willing to help. Some of you have remained silent for several years and it may soon be necessary to remove names from our list unless we receive

some assurance of your continued interest in Early American Numismatics. And, as always, we need your letters, comments, photographs, technical notes and inputs for The Research Forum..... During this next year there are several projects that we would like to get underway. An index or table of contents for all CNL issues is one another is production of a set of reprints of all back issues so that these can be available to our patrons, for reference use, at a reasonable price..... yet another is a library of high quality glossy photographs of new discoveries, perhaps even glossy photographic plates for use in CNL..... Someday we hope that our Informal Association of Patrons of The Colonial Newsletter can be established as a formal National Society and this publication turned over to them as their Journal.... in the meantime ye editor plans to continue as at present. Each issue is copyrighted for the protection of our contributors. IN THIS ISSUE is a listing of Research Forum questions to which we have had little response, plus several new ones for your consideration..... In response to RF-8 Walter Breen has added a tabulation of emissions from each of the New Jersey mints updating earlier data on this subject and we are still in the dark as to the identity of Horatio N. Rust..... Bill Wild discusses his two unique Massachusetts Sixpence over Shillings and some interesting data on the early life of James Jarvis is extracted from Mr. Damon G. Douglas' manuscript James Jarvis and the Fugio Coppers, and presented in the first of several parts. SOME FUTURE MATERIAL reported in work..... Ned Barnsley has a paper on "Clicked Connecticut" ye editor a group of photograph of misstruck Fugios and we hope Bob Vlack will complete his series on French Colonies Sous one of these days..... Speaking of Fugios, Ted Craig has a "New Haven" uniface reverse in lead that he would like to dispose of. We are not certain which die it is, but if you are interested write to him in care of CNL and we will forward your letter to him.... Thanks again for your contributions.

JCS

* * RESEARCH FORUM * *

The following are selected RESEARCH FORUM questions from earlier issues to which insufficient data has been received. Some partial data inputs are noted, and several new questions are added to our tabulation. Your response to these questions is invited as well as your personal inquiries for this series. Walter Breen comments on RF-8 and adds a tabulation of emissions from the various New Jersey mints.

* * *

RF-1 Has anyone seen the Mott token with lettered edge?

* *

RF-6 Crosby Fugio obverse #4 (rays of the glory extending into the thirteen rings) is reported in gold, silver and copper (electro). Can these specimens, or photographs, be made available for examination?

●➤ Eric Newman reports that the copper electros - which belonged to Crosby - are confirmed to exist in a private collection.

* *

RF-7 Has anyone actually seen a Rhode Island 1778-79 piece with "vlugtende" below the ship?

●➤ Richard Picker believes such a specimen exists in the Johns Hopkins University collection.

* *

RF-14 Relative to the article by Dr. Fuld in the June 1964 issue of The Colonial Newsletter --- Who owns a silver restrike Draped Bust cent with a plain edge, and ---

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RF-15 Who has the gold restrike cents, two of which were struck? Do these gold restrikes have plain or corded edges?

*

RF-23 A number of sites have been mentioned by various writers as the location of the mint, or mints, of the Fugio Cents of 1787, none of which have yet been verified. Does anyone have reasonable proof for any specific locations?

*

RF-24 Why is the Voce Populi coinage of 1760 considered to be Colonial American when they were struck in Dublin, Ireland and there is no evidence of their circulation in America?

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RF-25 In the November 1883 and May 1884 issues of NUMISMA, Ed. Frossard discusses a Summer Islands Twenty Shilling Gold Piece, the property of Lyman H. Low. Where is this specimen today, and was it ever established to be genuine ?

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RF-26 On page 5 of the March 1969 issue of CNL, Barnsley mentions the unique 1786 Connecticut 5.3-B.2 "...the obverse fortunately plated by Elder because its present whereabouts is unknown." The illustration at the right was supplied by Ned Barnsley and is from the Elder catalog. Does anyone know the present location of this specimen which should be readily recognizable because of the planchet defect ?



Lot 1838

● ➤ from Walter Breen

Regarding RF-8 how about the ornamented edge 1787 IMMUNIS - has anyone seen this piece? Are photographs or first hand descriptions available for study ?

The only source known to me for the 1787 IMMUNIS with edge ornamented  is one of Edgar H. Adams's notebooks, preserved at ANS. The edge strongly suggests that this piece was overstruck on some foreign copper coin; edge devices were a luxury not encountered on James F. Atlee's productions.

Readers insufficiently familiar with more recent researches on New Jersey coppers may find of interest the following variety breakdown by mints. Numbers are Maris's. Omitted numbers are for coins not intended specifically for N.J.

- WYON MINT, BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND. 7-C, 7-E, 8-F, 81/2-C.
Reverse C was brought over by Walter Mould, 1786. The above coins are all patterns, the last-named the prototype of those to follow. Dies by Wyon.

- RAHWAY MINT. 9-G, 10-G, 10-h, 10-gg, 11-H, 11-hh, 11-G, 11 1/2-G, 12-G, 12-I, 22-P. The COULTERLESS Group, Fall 1786. Dies by Dudley?
- 1786 CURVED BEAMS: 23 1/2-R, 21 1/2-R, 24-R, 24-Q, 24-P, 23-R, 23-P, 21-R, 21-P, 21-O, 21-N, 20-N, 18-N, 18-M, 18-J, 18-L, 19-M, and the earliest perfect die (non-overstruck) 17-K. Dies by J. F. Atlee.
- 1786 STRAIGHT BEAMS. 14-J, 13-J, 16-J, 16-L, 16-d, 15-J, 15-L, 15-T, 15-U, 25-S, 26-S. Dies by Atlee.
- 1787 STRAIGHT BEAMS. 27-S, 27-j, 28-L, 28-S, 32-T, 33-U, 52-i, 55-l, 55-m. Dies by Atlee.
- 1787 CURVED BEAMS. 53-j: Dies by Dudley. 44-d, 44-c, 41-c, 42-c, 43-d, 43-Y, 45-d, 45-e, 47 1/2-e, 47-e, 46-e, 38-c, 38-Z, 38-Y, 38-a, 39-a. Dies by Atlee. 68-w here too?
- GOADSBY'S COINAGE. 50-f, 49-f, 51-g. Early 1788.
- POST-REPLEVIN COINAGE (By Matthias Ogden). Later 1788. 48-g, 48-f, 48-X, 37-X, 37-f, 37-Y, 37-J.
- MORRISTOWN MINT. (1,000,000: 1787-88)
 - 6-C, 6-D, 20-p, 61-p, 59-o, 64-t, 64-u: Dies by Mould
 - 62-q, 63-q, 63-r, 63-s: Dies by Dudley
 - 64 1/2-r: Obverse by Mould, Reverse by Dudley
 - 1788 issue: 65-u, 66-u, 66-v, 67-v
- ELIZABETHTOWN MINT. 17-K overstrikes, 17-J, 17-b, 38-b, 40-b, 36-J, 34-V, 35-J, 35-W. 70-x, 71-y, 72-z, 73-aa. By Matthias Ogden and Gilbert Rindell, using old Rahway dies at first, then crude locally made dies. All overstruck on other coins. Dies by ? Plaited Manes.
- BAILEY'S MINT, NYC. Early 1788. 76-cc, 74-bb, 75-bb, 77/8-dd. Dies by Bailey?
- MACHIN'S MILLS, NEWBURGH, NY. 57-n, 58-n, 56-n, 69-w. Dies by Atlee, the 56-58 group ("Camel Heads") using Jarvis/Connecticut punches. 54-k has been dubiously ascribed to one Hatfield or Hetfield; it is a copy of 46-e, place of minting uncertain (Staten Island? Bayonne area?).



SIX OVER TWELVE



William J. Wild



The coin illustrated above is an Oak Tree Sixpence, Noe 21 overstruck on a cut-down or clipped Oak Tree Shilling readily identified by its bold obverse and reverse lettering as a Noe 14, the "Spiny Tree." It is one of only two such specimens known and was discovered by Walter Breen in 1957. The second specimen was discovered by John J. Ford while cataloging the New Netherlands Coin Company 60th Public Auction Sale (December 1968) and is plated as Lot 201 in that catalog. These are the only overstrikes in the entire Massachusetts silver series of unquestioned genuineness and are both in the collection of the author. The first is designated as the Bullowa-Wild specimen and the second as the Brand-Wild specimen.

Other "overstrikes" in this series are the following:

- (1) Various NE coins overstruck on Spanish and other foreign coins--all are established to be forgeries.
- (2) Oak Tree Sixpence, Noe 15. Accepted by Noe as genuine solely because it had been so accepted by Crosby; however, its pedigree is questionable as it originated with C. I. Bushnell, along with the notorious "Good Samaritan" Shilling and its workmanship is so wildly divergent from that of the genuine that it is hard to accept as the "real thing." The dies are of shilling size identical to those of Oak Tree Shilling, Noe 12, lettering timidly cut, is altogether unlike any of the genuine in form. Irrationally and suspiciously, though, there is a center dot, both rows ("circles") of beads are ovals. The whole purpose of a center dot was to provide a resting point for a compass in laying out circular dies, and its presence on a wholly hand-cut die with ovals and without circular arrangement of letters or circular strings of beads is totally unreasonable. This Noe 15 Sixpence over Shilling is at present in the cabinet of Johns Hopkins University and according to the curator only a bit of "XII" is visible and therefore not attributable to a Noe number.
- (3) Various examples of Oak Tree Sixpence, Noe 17 are claimed as overstrikes. All specimens examined were struck from clashed dies.

These spectacular overstrikes were not recognized in such famous collections as Carl Wurtzback, T. James Clarke or F.C.C. Boyd even though the second discovery piece, the Brand-Wild specimen, had been owned by both Clarke and Boyd. Perhaps the fact that many of the Willow and Oak Tree coins were double or triple struck may account for these late discoveries.

These are apparently not pieces de caprice. There is no evidence that John Hull indulged in this sort of thing. It follows that the specimens are either mint errors or more likely a matter of economy. The Shillings were presumably rejects for one reason or another--misstriking or gross light-weight or the like and were fed into the Sixpence press.

The Bullowa - Wild specimen is the identical coin which established almost beyond further controversy the dating of the last Oak Tree Shillings and Sixpences as 1666-1667 contemporaneously with each other and not far removed in time from the earliest Pine Tree issues, thus confirming Sydney Noe's speculations. Noe and Breen have used two independent lines of argument in their various writings on the Massachusetts silver coins. This specimen provides evidence verifying both lines. It is a numismatic missing link, changing guesswork into verified detective work, and circumstantial evidence into direct.

The Oak Tree Sixpences, Noe 20, 21 and 22, three recuttings of a single obverse die, share a single reverse, Crosby's "D" which reappears on the first few Pine Tree Sixpences, the famous "Spiny Tree" coins, Noe 32. As this die did not deteriorate and all the varieties bearing it are very rare even compared with other Massachusetts silver coins, we may conclude that the issue was brief and small, without significant interruption. As the obverses of Sixpences Noe 20, 21, 22 and 32, and the Shilling, Noe 14, are the only Massachusetts silver dies style-linked by the "Spiny" motif--the Shilling is called the "Oak that got changed to a Pine"--and Noe placed it last among the Oak Tree coins because of its resemblance to Sixpence, Noe 32, once again we are led to a conclusion sound enough by criteria accepted in the study of ancient coins:

- (1) They were all made within a relatively short space of time, presumably by the same engraver.
- (2) They were made around the time of the shift from Oak to Pine format.
- (3) The Oak coins were the last of their type, as the Pine were the first of theirs, if we accept that Pine followed Oak.

These Sixpence struck over a Noe 14, therefore were probably made not long after the particular specimens of Noe 14 and probably contemporaneously with other Noe 14's. These coins provide independent confirmation of the above developed stylistic line of evidence, evidence now all but irresistible.

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Noe adopted a different and likewise mutually confirmatory line of reasoning in dating Oak and Pine Tree issues. He worked backward from 1682 when the Boston mint ceased operation, one year before John Hull's death, noting limits of the seven yearly contract renewals. This gives:

May 26/27, 1652 to October 1652	NE coins authorized
Summer 1652	NE coins struck
Oct. 19, 1652	Willow coins authorized. Seven-year contract?
Winter 1652/53	Willow coinage begun
1660?	Seven-year contract renewal? Oak Tree coins?
May 16, 1662	Two-pence authorized, Oak Tree Type, Dated 1662
Oct. 9, 1667	Contract renewed. Large Pine Tree coins?
Oct. 1674	Contract expired. No coinage?
May 12, 1675	Contract renewed for seven years. Small Pine Tree coins?
July 9, 1675	May contract signed
May 12, 1682	Contract expired. Not renewed
Oct. 1, 1683	John Hull died
Oct. 23, 1684	Colony's charter revoked
Nov. 22, 1684	Coinage spoken of as a thing of the past (Crosby P. 87)

Which therefore gives 1666/67 as the period of final Oak Tree dies, and these extraordinary overstrikes independently verify that the last Oak Tree dies and the earliest Pine Tree dies were made without any long separation between them. The arguments for dating by style and the arguments for dating by contract renewal periods, though independently conceived, support each other in a most uncanny way, and all are supported and verified in an even more uncanny way by these overstrikes.

Provenance of the Bullowa-Wild specimen prior to acquisition by the writer has been difficult to trace. Following its discovery in 1957 by Walter Breen in the stock of David M. Bullowa, it passed to a Mr. Warner, believed to have been living in the western part of Massachusetts near Greenfield. It was purchased by Ralph Goldstone of Boston from the estate of Mrs. Ruth Warner's late husband early in 1964 and in December of 1964 was acquired by the writer.

While checking through some back issues of The Numismatist, I found the following information in the January 1960 issue:

"Announcing. . .the purchase of the entire stock of coins of the David Bullowa Coin Shop, from Mrs. Catherine Bullowa, and this stock contains many wonderful numismatic items from the Henry Chapman and Ira Reed stocks obtained by Mr. David Bullowa many years ago. . ." Dan Brown Coin Shop

Hoping that this overstrike might be one of these items, I wrote to Catherine in November 1967, and she replied:

"I wish I could help you with its pedigree. I do know for a certainty that it was in a purchase with other items. It was not in the stock purchase of Mr. Chapman, nor of Ira Reed. It came much after that time. . ." C.B.

And that is the best I have been able to do 'til this date.

The Brand-Wild specimen is ex Brand, Clarke, Boyd according to John J. Ford. At the time of the sale, I discussed the coin with Walter Breen and he mentioned that John Ford had discovered that it was the Noe 21/14 overstrike. This specimen is not as spectacular as the first as it does not exhibit the outside lettering; however, the most important characteristic is the portion of the Spiney Tree which can be seen in the blank space at the top when the Sixpence Tree is turned upside down. Certain other characteristics of the beading and striking are apparent on both coins.

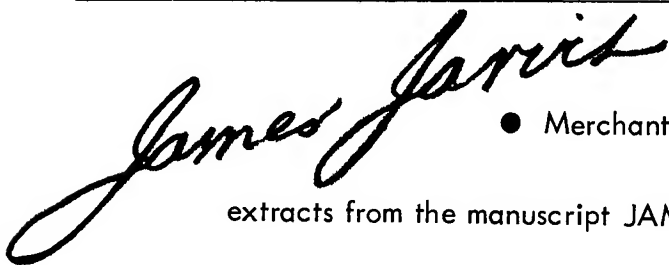


Acknowledgements:

Walter H. Breen whose certificate of authentication on the Bullowa-Wild specimen supplied much of the pertinent information contained herein.

John Work Garrett Library of the Johns Hopkins University for data on the Noe 15 Sixpence.

The Colonial Newsletter, for the photographs.



● Merchant ● Privateer ● Coinage Contractor ●

extracts from the manuscript JAMES JARVIS AND THE FUGIO COPPERS

* by DAMON G. DOUGLAS

Editor's Preface: This is the first of several extracts prepared by ye editor of the historical and biographical data on James Jarvis, contractor for the Fugio Coppers, which appear in Mr. Douglas' manuscript located at the American Numismatic Society in New York City. This first portion covers the early life of Jarvis, whose signature appears as our title, his family ties, business and military associations, and his connection with William Duer which led to Jarvis' official government contract for the first United States coppers. His later activities will be covered in subsequent extracts.

In preparing these extracts ye editor has made several deletions from the original in those areas that covered the numismatic details of the Fugio coinage or that cross referenced other sections of the manuscript. Also - to simplify the material for the more casual reader, we have reluctantly elected to bypass the more than two hundred footnotes and references which so beautifully authenticate this section of the manuscript. The serious student of Jarvis will, however, want to pursue in detail the reference material which Mr. Douglas has researched and which includes material from an uncatalogued manuscript collection of the papers of James Jarvis from 1776 to 1785, located in the Connecticut State Library. The entire manuscript is available on microfilm from the American Numismatic Society.

Special acknowledgement is due Mr. Sawyer McA. Mosser for his personal efforts on our behalf while he was Executive Director of A.N.S.

JCS

James Jarvis was baptized at Oyster Bay, Long Island, New York, on May 9, 1756. He was the oldest of the five children born to his parents, James and Mary (Bell) Jarvis. His grandfather, Benjamin Jarvis, was entered as a Freeman of the City of New York in 1730 as a felter, died in September of 1756 and left his hatter's business in New York City and the tools of the trade to his son James, Senior, who carried on the business until his own death in 1774. Young James seems to have been brought up in New York City and instructed in his father's shop which in addition to making hats dealt in such varied merchandise as "Spermaceti Candles," "English Sail Cloth," "neat assortment of glass (on consignment from Henry William Stiegel) and earthenware" and a "parcel of English kitchen garden seeds."

War clouds of the Revolution interrupted his business progress. At the age of 19 in 1775, he was enrolled as 3rd lieutenant in an independent foot company in New York City, "The Bold Forresters," their uniforms, "Short Green Coats, small round hats, one side up, the word Freedom on a Brass plate on Front." The next year his name appeared on the list of those who had given the leads from their house windows for bullets for the use of the American army and his signature appeared upon some of the New York State paper money emission of March 5, 1776.

Jarvis fled New York before its occupation by the British in September 1776 and established himself in a mercantile enterprise at Norwalk, Connecticut. The records of Sir Henry Clinton, commander of the British forces at New York, report under date of January 27, 1777, the arrival of "James Jarvis of Norwalk in Connecticut who left it a week ago. He was pressed to serve in West Point Fort which oblig'd him to make his escape . . ." Whether or not this was the true reason for his visit or just a convenient excuse to permit his presence in New York, a letter of April 2, 1779, shows Jarvis again at Norwalk transacting business.

Within the next two years, he removed to Boston, Massachusetts, and was taken into the house of John de Neufville & Son, Merchants of Amsterdam, Holland, to assist the transaction of business between that firm and their customers in the United States of North America. Jarvis on January 26, 1781, wrote them to send him "a pair of elegant gilt looking glasses" for "a lady for whom I have the greatest esteem" In a document dated March 2, 1781, he and Jeremiah Platt gave security for a privateering commission to prey upon British shipping with the ship "Discovery" belonging to Messrs. James Jarvis & Company of Boston. In this year, he witnessed the signature of Samuel Broome upon a similar obligation commissioning the ship "Camberwell" belonging to "Samuel Broome and others of Boston."

Mr. James Jarvis and Miss Amelia Broome recorded their intentions to wed at Boston, July 24, 1781. A letter from an army friend at "Peak's Hill," September 1, 1781, congratulated Jarvis upon his recent marriage and sent best regards to "Mrs. Jarvis and Mr. and Mrs. Broome." His bride was the oldest daughter of Samuel and Phoebe (Platt) Broome. She was delicately complimented by the Marquis de Chastellux who wrote of his visit to Boston in 1781, "The 20th was wholly devoted to Society. Mr. Broome gave me an excellent dinner, the honours of which were performed by Mrs. Jarvis and her sister, with as much politeness and attention as if they had been old and ugly."

Samuel Broome had been associated in mercantile business in New York City with his wife's brother, Jeremiah Platt, as early as 1766 under the firm style of Phoenix, Broome and Company, which was changed that year to Samuel Broome and Company. This company removed their store at the end of 1775 from New York to New Haven but, as we have already seen, Broome had subsequently moved to Boston. At the close of the Revolution, he returned to New York City and as Colonel Samuel Broome took a prominent place in meetings of the Sons of Liberty. The firm advertised their store at 190 Water Street, New York City as Broome, Platt and Brush in 1784. In the fall, the firm again moved to New Haven where in August of 1785 they advertised the withdrawal of Eliphalet Brush from the firm which continued as Broome and Platt.

On July 4, 1782, the privateer brigantine "Iris" belonging to James Jarvis of Boston was commissioned. But by April 15, 1783, he had returned to New York where Broome addressed him "at Mr. Pines, Broad Street." The address on a letter of September 2, 1783, was "at the Widow Pines in Maiden Lane, New York."

Late in 1783, Jarvis was planning some sort of enterprise with Walter Mould, three years later to become a coiner of New Jersey coppers. In this connection, Mould journeyed to England and back early in 1784 to obtain everything necessary to "forward our plans" which contemplated operations at a place that Jarvis was to have "fixed." He suggested that a "Malting Business" might profitably be "carried on in that place with the other at a small expense."

The names of Samuel Broome, Jeremiah Platt and James Jarvis all appeared in the list of members petitioning for the incorporation of the New York Chamber of Commerce in April of 1784 at New York City. On February 25, 1785, Jarvis dispatched "a chaise and harness" from New York by sloop to Mrs. Jarvis at New Haven who was there with her parents. Shortly thereafter he must have embarked for Europe because his letter dated from Amsterdam, Holland, on June 5, 1785, to Benjamin Franklin at Passy regarding arrangements for Franklin's passage back to America, gave Jarvis's address as "Care of Daniel Crommelin and Sons, Amsterdam." Thomas Jefferson, in a letter from Paris on June 22, 1785, mentioned Jarvis as having left Paris for Holland some time ago." He described him as a citizen of New York and "a gentlemen of intelligence, in the mercantile line."

On the 12th of November 1785, at New Haven, Connecticut, the "Company of Coining Coppers" was formed to exploit the Connecticut state concession. On February 9, 1786, their coppers were first issued and in April, James Jarvis became the owner of a 5/16th interest in the company. This acquisition may have been prompted by an interest in the consideration being given to proposals for a national coinage by the Continental Congress at New York. While the earliest extant record of Jarvis's efforts in this direction is his letter of October 16, 1786, that letter indicates earlier contacts in this connection with William Duer, Secretary of the Board of Treasury which had the matter in charge.

Duer, a daring and unscrupulous speculator, had secured this influential post in March of 1786. His office soon became the center of operation for a congenial group of similarly minded businessmen, trading on the inside information about the financial plans of the government, available to Duer. In 1787, he contrived the Scioto land speculation "in which many of the principal characters in America were concerned." It would have been odd had the profit opportunities seemingly inherent in the coinage of coppers been overlooked by such a band.

The Grand Committee of Congress in a report on May 13, 1785, had pointed to the copper coinage as "a subject that claims our immediate attention." Numerous private proposals commenced to pour in, some asking for employment in a government mint, others offering to conduct such a mint and still others seeking private contracts for furnishing the government with copper coin. By April 8, 1786, the Board stated that it was ready to report upon "the different propositions . . . for the establishment of a Copper Coinage" when the Congress should have determined the monetary unit.

This report was finally given on April 9, 1787, and outlined five proposals for supplying the government with copper coins. The first two proposers offered to sell coin to the government at face value less discounts of 25% and of 37% plus freight from London respectively, payment to be made, on delivery, in gold, silver or good bills. The third was upon similar terms but for full face value without discount. These three, the Board considered ineligible because of the "embarrassments of the Public Finances." The other two they submitted to the consideration of the Congress.

One of these proposals was from Matthias Ogden of Elizabeth Town, New Jersey, and his associates, Thomas Goadsby and Albion Cox. They offered to manufacture 300 tons of coin for their own account under government supervision and to pay into the Treasury 15% of the coppers so made as a royalty for the exclusive privilege. This was the arrangement under which they were then actively coining "horse head" coppers for the state of New Jersey at their Rahway mint except that the New Jersey premium was at 10% instead of the proffered 15%. They advanced three arguments in favor of their proposal. The readiness and completeness of their "works" would permit the coinage to be commenced at once. Their intention to use domestic ore would be "carrying into Effect a manufactory hitherto unknown in this country - The Smelting, Refining, and Sheeting Copper from the Raw Materials . . ." Their knowledge of the art of smelting, refining and assaying the precious metals would be at the disposal of the government when they were ready to establish a coinage of gold and silver.

The other proposal was that of James Jarvis. It offered to deliver three hundred tons of coin within three years and to take in payment for them obligations of the government to run as long as twenty years and to bear interest at six per cent. His written proposal dated November 1, 1786, which is the only one from him extant among the Treasury records makes no provision for paying any premium to the government. However the Board's report to Congress recited as part of his proposal an offer to pay a 10% premium of the value of the coppers coined.

The whole report was referred to a special committee which reported April 20 in favor of having the coining performed by private contract instead of in a government mint. They recommended the award of the contract in accordance with the principles of Jarvis's proposal provided he would raise the amount of premium to match Ogden's 15%. Congress, on April 21, 1787, adopted the committee's report by resolution and on April 26 gave the Board of Treasury orders to report a proper device for the coin. May 8, on motion of Mr. Rufus Kind of New York, the Board of Treasury was authorized to dispose of all government copper on hand "either by sale, or a contract for the coinage of the same as they shall judge most for the interest of the U.S." We shall see that more than six tons of this copper had already been turned over to Jarvis four months before this Congressional authorization.

The government's accumulation had been commenced in 1781 in connection with Robert Morris's plans at that time for the establishment of a federal mint at Philadelphia. Toward the end of that year, a quantity arrived from Boston on the Brigantine Activa, Captain Hodge, a packet belonging to the United States. It was invoiced by a Mr. Brown. 35,228 pounds of wrought copper, delivered by "Mr. Jno. Ross of Philadelphia" to Benjamin Dudley on order of Robert Morris, were paid for to Benjamin Flower on April 2, 1783. Three years later "forty casks of rough copper and ten casks of copper nails" were purchased from Edward Russell of Boston and shipped from Boston to New York by packet, Thomas Barnard collecting \$40.00 freight charges thereon, September 19, 1786.

At just what point in his negotiations James Jarvis had secured the support of William Duer is not known. Prior to his letter of October 16, 1786, he had been discussing the "business" with Duer. Jarvis later wrote that he had known Duer "was engaged in a sort of treaty with others" of the contestants for the contract, and upon Duer's demanding it, he promised him a share in the business, "provided he would pledge himself to be at least dormant and secret with respect to the others." As early as January 16, 1787, four months before contracting with him, the Board or its Secretary seems to have picked Jarvis as the ultimate winner because on that day they turned over to him 12,809 lbs. of the government's copper. After the action by Congress, of April 21, Jarvis repaired to Duer's home, there to draft with him the authorized contract for the first United States coppers.

